



CLAIM REJECTIONS

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 1-10, 13, and 16-24 are rejected. Claims 11-12 and 14-15 are objected to. Claims 8, 12, and 15 have been amended herein. Claim 12 is objected to as lacking antecedent basis if depending from Claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 12 depends on Claim 11 and as such does not lack antecedent basis.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1-10, 13, and 16-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as being anticipated by Chen, "Building Expert Systems Through The Integration Of Mental Models", 1988 (also referred to as Chen). Applicants have reviewed the cited reference and respectfully submit that the present invention as recited in currently amended independent Claim 1 and 16, Claims 2-7, 13, and Claims 17-24 is not shown or suggested by Chen. Applicants also respectfully submit that the present invention as recited in currently amended independent Claim 8, Claims 9-10, Claims 13-14, and currently amended Claims 12 and 15 is not shown or suggested by Chen.

Examiner is respectfully directed to currently amended independent Claim 1, which recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to a method of dynamically acquiring and applying a best-known process, comprising:

creating a master rules database as a function of a plurality of available data structures contained in a control database and a plurality of rules;

copying an applicable one of said plurality of available data structure and corresponding one or more of said plurality of rules to form a project database;

manipulating a data structure of said project database, wherein said manipulating said data structure comprises adding, deleting, or modifying said data structure; and

invoking said project database to control a project..

Currently amended independent Claim 16 and independent Claim 20 recite limitations similar to those of currently amended independent Claim 1. Claims 2-7, 17-19, and 21-24 depend from currently amended independent Claims 1 and 16, and from independent Claim 20, respectively, and recite further limitations of the claimed invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that the limitations of currently amended independent Claim 1 are not shown or suggested by Chen. Specifically, Applicant respectfully submits that Chen does not show or suggest, either expressly or inherently, “manipulating a data structure of said project database, wherein said manipulating said data structure comprises adding, deleting, or modifying said data structure” as is recited in currently amended independent Claim 1.

As cited in currently amended independent Claim 1, the present invention is directed toward adding, deleting, or modifying the data structure, Chen is directed toward grouping a set of objects together so that the exact match may be replaced by an approximate match. (p.758, Col. 1, para. 2 and 3). For example, Chen cites that

“intellectual” may be used as a concept containing several object names and all the documents which contain those object names will be tied together through the concept “intellectual” such that when a query comes, an object name can be replaced by the name of the concept, or the name of some other object which is associated with the same concept. (p.758, Col. 1, para. 2). To clarify, while currently amended independent Claim 1 pertains to allowing a user to add, delete or modify the data structure, Chen pertains to recording the possible connections among the knowledge acquired from different mental models (p. 758, Col. 1, para 1).

Consequently, the embodiments of the Applicants’ invention as is set forth in currently amended independent Claim 1 is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Chen. Currently amended independent Claims 16 and independent Claim 20 recite limitations similar to those of currently amended independent Claim 1. Claims 2-7 and 17-24 depend from currently amended independent Claims 1 and 16, and from independent Claim 20, respectively, and recite further limitations of the claimed invention. Thus, Claims 2-7, 17-19, and 21-24 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being dependent on allowable base claims.

In accordance with Examiner’s suggestion, Applicants have amended independent Claim 8 to include limitations from canceled Claim 11. Examiner is respectfully directed to currently amended independent Claim 8, which recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to an expert system, comprising:

a control database having a plurality of available data structures, wherein said control data base comprises a first

hierarchical database;
a master rules database, coupled to said control database,
having one or more of said plurality of available data structures
populated with a plurality of corresponding rules, wherein said
master rules database comprises a second hierarchical database;
an operations database, wherein said operations database
comprises a third hierarchical database;
an initialization module, communicatively coupled
between said master rules database and said operations database,
wherein said initialization module causes one or more of said
plurality of available data structures populated with a plurality of
corresponding rules to be copied such that a project database is
formed in said operations database; and
a dynamic knowledge module, communicatively coupled
to said operations database, wherein said dynamic knowledge
module causes a portion of a data structure of said project database
to be modified.

Claims 9-10, Claims 13-14, and currently amended Claims 12 and 15 depend
from currently amended independent Claim 8 and recite further limitations of the claimed
invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that the limitations of currently amended
independent Claim 8 are not shown or suggested by Chen. Specifically, Applicant
respectfully submits that Chen does not show or suggest, either expressly or inherently,
“a control database having a plurality of available data structures, wherein said control
data base comprises a first hierarchical database; a master rules database, coupled to said
control database, having one or more of said plurality of available data structures
populated with a plurality of corresponding rules, wherein said master rules database
comprises a second hierarchical database; an operations database, wherein said
operations database comprises a third hierarchical database,” as is recited in currently
amended independent Claim 8.

Applicants agree with the Examiner that Chen does not teach or render obvious a control database comprising a first hierarchical database, a master rules database comprising a second hierarchical database, and an operations database comprising a third hierarchical database. Consequently, the embodiments of the Applicant's invention as is set forth in currently amended independent Claim 8 is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Chen. Claims 9-10, Claims 13-14, and currently amended Claims 12 and 15 depend on currently amended independent Claim 8 and recite further limitations of the claimed invention. Thus, Claims 9-10, 13-14, and currently amended Claims 12 and 15 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being dependent on an allowable base claims.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Chen does not anticipate or render obvious the present claimed invention as recited in currently amended independent Claims 1 and 16, and in independent Claim 20, and as such, currently amended independent Claims 1 and 16, and independent Claim 20 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Chen does not anticipate or render obvious the present claimed invention as is recited in Claims 2-7, dependent on independent Claim 1, Claims 17-19, dependent on independent Claim 16, and Claims 21-24, dependent on independent Claim 20, and that Claims 2-7, 17-19, and 21-24 overcome the Examiner's basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being dependent on allowable base claims. Applicants also respectfully submit that Chen does not anticipate or render obvious the present claimed invention as recited in currently amended

independent Claim 8, and as such, currently amended independent Claim 8 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants also respectfully submit that Chen does not anticipate or render obvious the present claimed invention as is recited in Claims 9-10, 13-14, and currently amended Claims 12 and 15, dependent on currently amended independent Claim 8, and that Claims 9-10, 13-14, and currently amended Claims 12 and 15 overcome the Examiner's basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

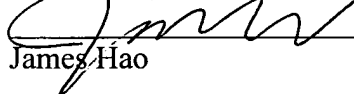
SUMMARY

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims in the instant patent application are in condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact James Hao at the below listed phone number.

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Respectfully submitted,
WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO LLP


James Hao

Address:

Registration No. 36,398
Two North Market Street
Third Floor
San Jose, California 95113

Telephone:

(408) 938-9060 Voice
(408) 938-9069 Facsimile